

Message Text

SECRET

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY: S/S-FVORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 091099

NODIS

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM ANKARA DTD 15 APR 1976 QUOTE

S E C R E T ANKARA 2958

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS ATHENS AND NICOSIA AS DESIRED

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, GR, CY, TU

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM FONMIN TO SECRETARY

REF: ANKARA 2947

1. AS FORESHADOWED IN MESSAGE I SENT EARLIER TODAY (REFTEL),
FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL HAS ASKED THAT I GET TO YOU, ON A MOST
URGENT BASIS, FOLLOWING MESSAGE:

2. BEGIN QUOTE: DEAR MR. SECRETARY:

WHILE ATTENDING A CABINET MEETING, I WAS INFORMED BY

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SECRETARY GENERAL MR. ELEKDAG OF THE LETTERS EXCHANGED

BETWEEN YOUR EXCELLENCY AND GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER MR. BITSIOS, THE TEXTS OF WHICH WERE HANDED OVER BY AMBASSADOR MACOMBER TO MR. ELEKDAG. I CONSIDER VERY SERIOUS THE SENTENCE IN YOUR MESSAGE WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS: "THEREFORE THE UNITED STATES WOULD ACTIVELY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY OPPOSE EITHER SIDE'S SEEKING A MILITARY SOLUTION AND WILL MAKE A MAJOR EFFORT TO PREVENT SUCH A COURSE OF ACTION."

AS MR. ELEKDAG HAS NOT FAILED TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF AMBASSADOR MACOMBER TO THE VERY SAME POINT, I HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THIS STATEMENT REFLECTS A NEW POSITION AND ATTITUDE BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ON THE MATTER. IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE IS TO ACHIEVE A FAIT ACCOMPLI AND THUS A POLITICAL VICTORY OVER TURKEY BY EXTENDING THE LIMITS OF ITS TERRITORIAL WATERS TO 12 MILES. SUCH AN ACTION WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO TURNING THE AEGEAN SEA INTO A GREEK LAKE AND CONSEQUENTLY TO EFFECTIVELY DENYING TO TURKEY HER INHERENT AND TRADITIONAL RIGHTS IN THAT SEA. THIS WOULD LEAVE TURKEY WITH NO OTHER OPTION BUT TO CONSIDER SUCH DEVELOPMENT AS A CASUS BELLI. I THEREFORE VIEW ANY CHANGE OF POSITION WHICH MIGHT ENCOURAGE SUCH A DEVELOPMENT AS DANGEROUS NOT ONLY TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS BUT ALSO TO THE SECURITY OF THE AREA.

I WOULD THEREFORE ASK YOU KINDLY EITHER TO IMPROVE THE SENTENCE WHICH I HAVE QUOTED ABOVE, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PREOCCUPATIONS WHICH I EXPOUNDED TO YOU, IN A MANNER NOT PERMITTING ANY NEW INTERPRETATION AND CONTROVERSY OR FAILING THAT, NOT TO MAKE PUBLIC THE SAID LETTERS. I BELIEVE SINCERELY THIS WILL ALSO BE IN THE INTEREST OF GREECE. WARM REGARDS, (SIGNED) IHSAN SABRI CAGLAYANGIL. END QUOTE

3. AFTER THE ORAL MESSAGE HAD BEEN READ BACK AND CONFIRMED FOR ACCURACY, ELEKDAG MADE SOME ADDITIONAL POINTS. HE SAID THAT WHAT BOTHERED THE FONMIN MOST WAS THE WORD " ACTIVELY" IN THE SENTENCE WHICH THE TURKS FIND OBJECTIONABLE. ELEKDAG SAID THIS BOTHERED FONMIN ENORMOUSLY.

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4. ELEKDAG CONTINUED THAT FONMIN WISHED TO TELL ME THAT IN CASE THE SECRETARY'S LETTER TO BITSIOS WAS DISCLOSED, INCLUDING THESE POINTS, FONMIN WOULD BE FORCED TO MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT THAT IF GREECE ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT IT HAS RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM THE USG, ATTEMPTS TO ENDANGER TURKISH INTERESTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE AEGEAN, THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE IN THE TURKISH ATTITUDE, COURSE OF ACTION, AND DETERMINATION.

5. ELEKDAG RESTATED GOT POSITION THAT LANGUAGE IN SECRETARY'S LETTER REPRESENTS A " GROSS DEPARTURE" FROM PREVIOUS PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON THE AEGEAN. HE REFERRED TO US STATEMENTS MADE IN NATO TO THE EFFECT THAT WAR BETWEEN TWO NATO ALLIES WOULD BE " INCONCEIVABLE" OR " UNTHINKABLE." HE IMPLIED THAT IF LETTER COULD BE ALTERED TO STAY WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THIS NATO LANGUAGE, IT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO GOT.

6. FINALLY ELEKDAG NOTED THAT CAGLAYANGIL HAD DICTATED HIS ORAL MESSAGE TO THE SECRETARY AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL.
MACOMBER
KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

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